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ABSTRACT

Problems with finance data reported through the Higher Education General Information Survey (HEGIS) are reported. Less than one percent of institutions appear to have reported incorrect data for the fiscal year (FY) 1983 finance survey. One reporting problem concerns state appropriations that are radically different in previous years or that are reported as $0. For public colleges, a $0 state appropriation is a flag for a potential problem. Another flag occurs when the amount of the Pell Grants exceeds the amount of restricted federal grants and contracts, since the latter includes Pell Grants. A chart of potential errors in reporting on the FY 1983 Finance Survey indicates the name of the college, the state, the amount of potential error (state and local appropriations, government grants and contracts, total revenue, and other), and comments about each potential error. A second chart of Pell Grant reporting errors shows for each college the amount of restricted federal government grants and contracts, and the amount of Pell grants. To determine if data problems exist with the HEGIS reporting, finance data for 5 years are listed according to specific categories. (SW)

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November 30, 1985

National Center for Higher Education Management Systems

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Introduction

In fiscal year 1984, a deliverable was prepared for NIE identifying problems found in the HEGIS data (see P8-3, "Problems Found in the HEGIS Data When Compiling Data for the Third Edition of HEF50). Five types of data problems originating at the institutional level were identified.

1. Noncomparable aggregation of reporting units from year to year.
2. Incorrect data reporting.
3. Different definitions used in completing the survey or in interpreting the instructions.
4. Failure of instructions to respond to the HEGIS surveys.
5. Data changes and/or corrections to the surveys after submission to NCES.

Certainly these problems still exist that affect analyses of the data, but both the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) and many institutions are attempting to overcome these problems.

The main purpose of this deliverable is to identify specific problems with the HEGIS finance survey.

Finance Data

Perhaps the most serious problem with the HEGIS finance data (Financial Statistics of Institutions of Higher Education for Fiscal Year 1983) was the late release of the data tape by NCES. NCES released the finance data tape in October 1985, about one year later than is typical. The original subcontractor

that was hired by NCES to prepare the HEGIS XVIII data tapes declared bankruptcy before completing the tapes and left them in substantial disarray. NCES then had to hire a second subcontractor to complete the work on the finance survey.

Because the finance data are frequently used in various ways at NCHEMS, they are scrutinized carefully to determine if there might be any problems with the data. This is done by listing the finance data for five years according to a number of specified categories. The listing is then scanned to determine if the reported data appear to be correct. Typically, if the data do not appear to be correct, NCHEMS directly contacts the institution or the state coordinating board/governing agency to determine if the data were reported correctly. In the cases where errors were made, NCHEMS updates its data base with the correct data. Because the data tape was released late, only the data checking step has been completed for the FY83 finance data.

Overall the FY83 finance data appear to be in excellent shape. Less than one percent of the institutions appear to have reported incorrect data. The reporting problems occur primarily in two areas:

1. State appropriations are radically different in previous years or are reported as $0. For public institutions, a $0 state appropriation is a flag for a potential problem. A listing of institutions with potential reporting errors is in Table 1.

2. The amount of Pell Grants reported in Part A, line 21 exceeds the amount reported on Part A, line 6 (Restricted Federal Grants and Contracts) for some institutions. Since restricted federal grants and contracts is supposed to include Pell Grants, line 6 should be equal

to or greater than line 21. A listing of these institutions is in Table 2.

Table 1

Potential Errors in Reporting on the FY1983 Finance Survey

FICE	State	Institution	Potential Error		Comments
			State & Local Appropriations	Other*	
00105	AL	Alabama State Univ.	1983 $1,481	$8,992	It is most likely that in FY83 state appropriations were reported in the "other" category.
			1982 7,816	451	
			1979 7,149	196	
			State & Local Appropriations	Govt. Grants & Contracts	
01259	CA	Palo Verde College	1983 $ 0	$1,048	Part of the state appropriations may have been reported under Government Grants and Contracts.
			1982 917	564	
			1979 793	246	
012662	CA	San Diego Miramar College			Revenues and expenditures increased more than 500% between FY82 and FY83; FTE enrollments increased by 32%.
			State & Local Appropriations	Total Rev.	
001776	IL	Univ. of Illinois--Chicago Circle	1983 $144,627	$215,950	There is a sharp increase in state appropriations and total revenues in FY83 over FY82 at Univ. of Ill. Chicago Circle.
			1982 59,899	92,217	
			1979 49,055	72,712	
003960	IL	Univ. of Illinois Medical Center-Chicago	1983 $ 29,622	$150,730	This may be related to the sharp decrease in state appropriations and total revenues of the Univ. of Illinois Medical Center. This suggests a change in reporting.
			1982 111,647	265,170	
			1979 84,271	176,876	
			State & Local Appropriations	Total Rev.	
011930	MA	Roxbury Community College	1983 $ 0	$2,116	No state appropriations were reported for this public two-year institution. Consequently, total revenues also decreased in 1983.
			1982 148	4,697	
			1979 1,525	2,941	
			State & Local Appropriations	Other*	
002656	NM	New Mexico Military Institute	1983 $ 0	$996	No state appropriations were reported for this public institution. The "other" revenue category is higher than might be expected.
			1982 501	79	
			1979 215	36	

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* The "other" category is NCHEMS calculation of lines 2, 15, and 18 of the HEGIS finance survey for Higher Education Financing in the Fifty States.

Table 2

Pell Grant Reporting Error in the HEGIS Finance Survey for FY83

FICE	State	Institution	Federal Gov. Grants & Contracts Restricted*	Amount of Pell Grants**
001046	AL	Talladega College	$82,868	$563,808
001127	CA	Cal College Arts & Crafts	$129,234	$337,602
001546	CA	Armstrong State College	$322,994	$363,234
001640	IL	Prairie State College	$273,470	$430,976
001665	IL	Columbia College	$0	$2,350,441
001672	IL	Devry Institute of Technology	$0	$3,457,699
001709	IL	Lincoln College	$2,132	$1,001,564
001801	IN	Hanover College	$0	$211,238
001830	IN	Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology	$311,560	$318,925
002065	MD	College of Notre Dame MD	$76,764	$158,863
002430	MS	Pearl River Jr. College	$291,817	$623,933
002782	NY	New York Institute of Technology New York City Campus	$831,332	$3,072,099
002913	NC	Campbell University	$0	$664,595
003099	OH	Ohio Institute of Technology	$0	$3,457,699
003404	RI	Johnson & Wales College	$913,148	$1,195,096
003431	SC	Converse College	$0	$110,517
003777	WA	Clark College	$107,472	$1,756,012
007669	WI	Southwest Wisconsin Vocational Technical Institute	$0	$293,915
010039	IN	Indiana Vocational Technical College--Lafayette	$264	$225,458
010832	CA	Western State University College of Law Orange County	$0	$45,274

* Part A, line 6
** Part A, line 21